

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 082961
ORIGIN IO-04

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66011
DRAFTED BY IO/MDC:JJBUCZACKI:DD
APPROVED BY IO/HDC:RANDREW
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION GENEVA 8069

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082961

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 3278 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO DEA HQS 12 APR 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3278

STATE FOR SNM AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR , CO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LOPEZ SPEAKS OUT ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN AN INTERVIEW APPEARING IN EL TIEMPO APRIL 10, PRESIDENT LOPEZ IN UNUSUALLY STRONG TERMS WARNED IF IMPLICATIONS FOR COLOMBIA OF DRUG TRAFFICKING.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF PERTINENT PORTION OF INTERVIEW: QUOTE WHAT KIND OF COLOMBIA WOULD YOU LIKE TO GOVERN? LOPEZ MICHELSEN ANSWERS. WELL, THE ONE WHICH I THOUGHT I WAS GETTING. THE THING IS THAT EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED. NO ONE EXPERIENCED WHAT I AM EXPERIENCING. DID YOU HEAR ANY CANDIDATE MENTION DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN THE DURG PROBLEM? THIS PROBLEM HAS INEXPRES-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 082961

SABLE IMPLICATIONS. IT PRODUCES MONETARY EFFECTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO INFLATION; DRUG TRAFFICKING IS THREATENING THE FISHING INDUSTRY; IT PLACES COLOMBIA IN A DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US; IN SOME AREAS, IT DETERMINES COLOMBIAN POLITICS. IF NOTHING IS DONE TO REMEDY THE BRIBERY, DRUG INTERESTS WILL HAVE THEIR OWN SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. THIS WAS HOW A SENATOR RAISED IT WITH ME YESTERDAY. AND NOT ONLY DO I SAY THIS; IT IS PUBLIC

KNOWLEDGE. DRUGS WILL BE DETERMINING EVENTS FROM NOW TO THE YEAR 2000, AS IT OCCURED IN CHINA, BEFORE MAO: EITHER WE EXTERMINATE THEM OR THEY WILL EXTERMINATE US. END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THIS IS ONE OF THE GRIMMEST, AND ONE OF THE MOST REALISTIC, STATEMENTS THAT LOPEZ IS KNOWN T HAVE MADE ON THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. MOREOVER, HE RESISTED HIS USUAL INCLINATION TO PUT MAJOR BLAME FOR THE PROBLEM ON THE US. UNFORTUNATELY, HE FAILED TO GO ON TO INDICATE IN THE INTERVIEW ANY NEW MEASURES OR DETERMINATION TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING MORE EFFECTIVELY. DREXLER. UNQUOTE VANCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: JJBUCZACKI:DD
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: SNAR, CO, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)
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